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memorandum

DATE: 7/29/86

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: SSA [REDACTED]b6
b7CSUBJECT: SICILIAN MAFIA
REI
OO: NEWARK

TO: SAC, NEWARK (92A-6235-1)(P) (C-6)

LS [REDACTED] translated numerous newspaper articles which appeared in "IL PROGRESSO", the Italian language newspaper, as reflected in the attached translations:

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92A-6235-285

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BUSCETTA: I have already stated that in the 70s I was never in Milan, I have nothing more to add.

Attorney FILECCIA (Defense): Do you also deny of adopting the phony name of ALBERTO BARBIERI and of being identified by a doorman at a hotel in Lugano?

BUSCETTA: Once again I deny.

Attorney FILECCIA: Alright, lets take notice of BUSCETTA's declarations.

Attorney GALASSO: BUSCETTA has said that STEFANO BONTADE told him the cousins SALVO were men of honor in the SALEMI family, that their role in Cosa Nostra was a modest one, but that their influence toward important politicians was vast, even those from Palermo which BUSCETTA reserved from naming. Now would you like to lose in this reserve and tell us these names?

Attorney SEMINARA (Defense for SALVO): I object to the form of the question.

President (Leading Judge): I will pose the question. (then to BUSCETTA): Can you tell us the names of the politicians mentioned by BONTADE?

BUSCETTA: I never got them, therefore I cannot say. I knew that the SALVOs knew many politicians, but I never knew which one. Is for the rest I had no interest in asking because I do not know politicians because I was thinking of getting away from Palermo.

Attorney GALASSO: I insist. BUSCETTA said, that regarding the SALVOs they were tied with noted members of the Parliament. He said it! Therefore; I wish to know the names.

BUSCETTA: Perhaps the examining judge wrote it this way, inadvertently distorting my declaration: I have no knowledge of any politician's name.

Attorney GALASSO: BUSCETTA after his escape from prison in 1980, met with a politician in Rome which he had seen for a long time. Who was he?

BUSCETTA: I do not remember, I do not even remember the meeting.

Palermo. "For the man of honor prison is a vacation." CONTORNO returns to testify on the heavy years of the Mafia.

Palermo. PIPPO CALO' the head of the Porta Nova "family", for some time settled in Rome, risked of being killed by SALVATORE CONTORNO in the first months of 1982. It was the same "TOTUCCIO"-Translator note: "TOTUCCIO" is a diminutive for SALVATORE-, that admitted it in front of the president of the Criminal Court of Palermo at the beginning of the second day of testimony. Why did CONTORNO want to kill CALO'? "TOTUCCIO" explained, narrating numerous terms in the Sicilian dialect, like the first testimony this provoked objections from the attorneys claiming not to understand him.

According to CONTORNO, CALO' was responsible for the death of CONTORNO's "head of the family" STEFANO BONTADE and of numerous relatives and friends.

Revenging these deaths, and at the same time restarting the so-called Mafia war was CONTORNO's objective. An operation, that, was blocked by the arrest of "TOTUCCIO" in a villa near BRACCIANO on March 24, 1982.

CONTORNO made an important admission: in every "family" even a single "soldier" (this was CONTORNO's duty) is up to date regarding the affairs of the group. For this reason he supports that he can speak with knowledge as to what caused the Mafia war and of the "families" internal betrayals, organized, he affirms, acts of the "Corleonesi". Words which did not please LUCIANO LEGGIO, whom was born in Corleone. He rose on his feet in the cell and shouted "scoundrel" in the direction of CONTORNO, to which CONTORNO responded "you are the scoundrel, Mr. LUCIANO LEGGIO".

If anything ruined "Cosa Nostra" it was the trafficking of drugs, (CONTORNO confirmed it in the following session) how come found in the villa at the time of the arrest was 140 kilograms of hashish, one kilo of morphine base, plus arms and ammunition? CONTORNO answered that during his stay in Rome he contacted a "reposed" (fall out of grace) Mafia member from the Altofone "family" FRANCESCO DI CARLO, to propose an association in trafficking. Dr. GIORDANO then requested he talk about the Mafia war victims closest to him.

"TOTUCCIO" named NINO GRADO and FRANCO MAFARA (both disappeared) saying that they were killed by one of his enemies, SALVATORE PRESTIFILIPPO. On the same day of this double homicide also ambushed and killed was GIOVANNELLO MAFARA, brother of FRANCESCO.

Why all these homicides? For CONTORNO there is only one explanation: MICHELE GRECO, "Corleonesi" and a good deal from the bigger "families" from Palermo, which after 1978 decided on total control on drug trafficking between Sicily and the United States. "There were no winners and losers in this war but traitors and those betrayed." For example, betrayed were the MAFARA's and the GRADOS', who had their own channels for heroin trafficking with the United States. "They had their own movements", said CONTORNO; the MARQUIS GIOVANNELLO GRECO together with the Ciaculli "family", operated, because-CONTORNO pointed-"they had an association with STEFANO BONTADE and SALVATORE INZERILLO". Who betrayed them? As always, according to CONTORNO, the Corleonesi, people-CONTORNO points-"that got ahead with the talk and the anonymous letters".

From the cells arose a deafening uproar. Which could be barely calmed by the president. When calm was returned to the courtroom CONTORNO said, "If they call me a cockold I will retort because they are the cockolds."

For the "man of honor", like it is mentioned in an old Sicilian ballad, "jail is a vacation". In 1977, CONTORNO remembers in Palermo's UCCIARDONE Prison infirmary twenty-three Mafiosi (Mafia members) were being treated, all afforded every need and care, while those in need of treatment remained outside. "President-CONTORNO said-do you believe that the sick were placed in the infirmary? There were those that commanded the place." This demonstrate that a "boss remains a boss." CONTORNO quoted one of his own visit at the TRAPANI Prison to meet with Palermo's PIETRO VERNENGO for the purpose of acquiring a cargo of cigarettes. "MARIANO AGADE, MAZARA del VALL family leader, arranged for my visit-CONTORNO said-they did not even ask me for a document, and at that time I was a fugitive".

Hired killer flees, a second person injured.

Killed in the street of Palermo the building contractor ALBANESE, brother-in-law of GIOVANNI BONTADE.

Palermo. GIUSEPPE ALBANESE, age sixty-three, having a police record as a Mafia member, was shot and killed Friday morning in via Principe di Palagonia, a residential district of Palermo. At the time of the ambush the victim was in his automobile. The lone killer then fled on foot according to certain witnesses.

ALBANESE-according to investigators-in the past was allied with the "families" BONTADE and TERESI, whose leaders are among those "fallen" during the Mafia war of the eighties. He was also one of the defendants in the "114" trial which was held in the seventies.

Two of the bullets that killed ALBANESE, injured ANTONINO SPATAFORA, age sixty-three, who was sitting next in the victim's Opel which was stopped in via Principe di Palagonia next to a bank where earlier the victim had deposited more than five million lire for the firm IRPEF.

Building contractor GIUSEPPE ALBANESE was the brother-in-law of GIOVAN BATTISTA BONTADE, ex-banker employee, one of the defendant presently standing trial in session since February 10 of this year in the maximum security courtroom in Palermo's UCCIARDONE Prison and the brother of STEFANO BONTADE one of the losing Mafia clan leader assassinated in 1981.